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when the moon was in the first quarter, I observed a bright spot resembling a small star or planet upon the shaded surface of the moon at a considerable distance from the illuminated portion of the satellite. This I have no doubt was due to the beams of the sun being reflected from the summit of one of the higher peaks before they had illuminated the surrounding country. I have no doubt the passage in question was suggested to the mind of the author by his having been witness of some similar phenomenon, although I have never heard of it being visible to the unaided eye.

T. D.

York, England.

## BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Masterpieces of American Literature, with Biographical Sketches.*  
Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 12°.

THIS book was prepared at the suggestion of the Boston school authorities, and is designed both as a reading book and as an introduction to American literature. The authors represented are thirteen in number, including Franklin, Irving, Whittier, Lowell, and others, and the selections embrace a variety of articles in many departments of literature, both in prose and in verse. The selections are longer than those in ordinary reading books, the whole of Whittier's "Snowbound," for instance, being given, while other authors are represented either by entire works or by long extracts. It is stated in the preface that the Boston school authorities "planned the book and approved every selection;" but, if they did, we cannot think they are to be wholly commended as judges of literature. The book contains too many doggerel verses, while, on the other hand, it presents some striking deficiencies. For instance, there is not in the whole book a single extract from our historians, although it is well known that we have better works to show in history than in any other department of literature. Moreover, there is not a religious article in the book, and very few that are even ethical; so that the collection cannot be regarded as a satisfactory epitome of the best American literature. The omissions are the more to be regretted because ethical and historical works are especially adapted for the instruction of the young. American literature is but a narrow field at best, and gleaners in it cannot afford to neglect any portion of it, least of all that portion from which the most useful moral lessons may be learned. We hope, therefore, that, if ever the book reaches a second edition, some changes will be made in its contents.

## AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

— The third edition of "Electricity, treated Experimentally for the Use of Schools and Students," by Linnæus Cumming, has been published by Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co. The author has made such additions and alterations as seemed necessary to bring the book up to date.

— John Wiley & Sons have in preparation a "Manual of Experimental Engineering," by Professor R. C. Carpenter of Sib'ey College.

— Moses King of Boston, the maker of hand-books on various cities, now announces a new work, to be called "King's Handbook of New York City."

— Messrs. Whittaker & Co. have in the press a second edition of Dr. A. B. Griffith's "Treatise on Manures." It is a little more than two years since the work appeared. Fifty pages of new matter have been added.

— The January number of *Scribner's Magazine* marks the beginning of the sixth year and eleventh volume of a periodical which has already attained a circulation of more than 140,000 copies monthly.

— D. Appleton & Co. have under way a subscription-book of considerable importance, edited by Professor Shaler of Harvard. It is to be a general review of the America of to-day based upon the reports of the last census. The contributions to this volume

will be by experts and men of high standing in the profession for which they speak.

— The next volumes of Swan, Sonnenschein, & Co's Social Science Series will be "Poverty, Its Genesis and Exodus," by J. G. Godard, and "The Trade Policy of Imperial Federation," by Maurice H. Harvey, who lately wrote an article on the subject in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*. A translation of the new book of M. Ostrogovski, "La Femme au Point de Vue du Droit Publique," is to appear in the same series at an early date.

— D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, will soon issue the first four books of "Dichtung und Wahrheit," edited for them, with introduction and notes, by Professor C. A. Buchheim, editor of the Clarendon Press Series of German Classics. The edition will be especially adapted for pupils preparing for entrance to college, offering an advanced requirement in German, but will also have in view the numerous colleges that devote a portion of their time to the reading of Goethe's prose.

— The frequent reports that Russia is about to seize Bokhara will lend interest to the article by the Rev. Henry Lansdell, D.D., in the January *Scribner*, entitled "Bokhara Revisited." In this article he says: "It was not the policy of the Resident to interfere more than is necessary in the domestic affairs of the Khanate, except when they related to Russian subjects; and as for annexing the Khanate, 'why,' as one asked of me, 'should they do that?' To administer the country in Muscovite fashion would cost a great deal more than the taxes would pay for, and if the Russians want anything done, they have simply to nod to the Emir and he does it. They are much too wise, therefore, to annex Bokhara, but if need arises it can of course be done at any moment."

— *The Chautauquan* for January presents the following among other articles in its table of contents: Domestic and Social Life of the Colonists, IV., by Edward Everett Hale; Trading Companies, by John H. Finley; Physical Life, IV., by Milton J. Greenman; National Agencies for Scientific Research, IV., by Major J. W. Powell; Science and the Feeding of Animals, by V. Hallenbeck; Progress in the Nineteenth Century, by Edward A. Freeman; Some Propositions of Nationalism, by Edward Arden; Niagara the Motor for the World's Fair, by Professor John Trowbridge; The Kindergarten Movement in Chicago, by Antoinette Van Hoesen Wakeman; How Women Figure in the Eleventh Census, by Margaret N. Wishard; Women's Robes in the Orient, by Countess Annie de Montaignu.

— The American Academy of Political and Social Science has just published an essay on "Some Neglected Points in the Theory of Socialism." The author is T. B. Veblen of Ithaca. The monograph was written with the purpose of finding an economic ground for the existing unrest that finds expression in the demands of Socialists. The work is a criticism of Mr. Spencer's essay, "From Freedom to Bondage," and though Mr. Veblen claims to be rather a disciple than a critic of Mr. Spencer, he hardly proves himself such. The author shows very clearly how, under our present system, there is a constant effort even at the expense of real physical comforts and even necessities to make a greater display of one's ability to pay than one's neighbors. This "Economic Emulation" he regards as the chief underlying cause of the present socialistic agitation.

— The success of *The Atlantic Monthly* in certain departments during the last year or two will be continued during the year 1892, as shown by the following announcements. All the attractions which it will contain cannot, however, be mentioned here. The papers on marked men will include articles on George Bancroft, by W. M. Sloane; Orestes A. Brownson, by George Parsons Lathrop; John Esten Cooke, and Philip Pendleton Cooke, by Thomas Nelson Page; and James B. Eads, and others, will be continued. "An American at Home in Europe" is a series of papers by William Henry Bishop, the novelist, giving the experience of an American family which established itself abroad. Mr. Bishop tells about his experiences in daily living in Paris, Versailles, St.